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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. In March 1946, the Soviet Union started on a program of recruiting Korean laborers to work as fishermen, miners, and lumbermen in Kamchatka, Sakhalin, the Kuril Islands, and the Maritime Territory.* The Soviets pointed out in their propaganda that Koreans could learn much about labor methods in the land of the true Socialist state and that serious unemployment could be averted if Koreans would volunteer. Most of the Koreans who applied for these jobs were poor farmers and laborers, bankrupt small business men, and those who could not bear the severe living conditions of North Korea.
2. Through the North Korean Labor Party and the North Korean Government, working for the Soviet Ministry of Fisheries* about 500,000 Koreans were hired by the local Labor Section of village and city People's Committees. Advertisements were put up in villages all over the country asking for applications from men and women over 18 years of age. In 1946, there were 20,000 Korean laborers in south Sakhalin and 10,000 in north Sakhalin, who had been first taken to Kamchatka. In 1947 about 65,000 Koreans were sent directly to southern Sakhalin. In 1948 about 110,000 Koreans were shipped to various areas in Soviet territory by ship from Songjin (129-12, 40-40). Although no Korean labor, only Soviet labor, was moved to south Sakhalin in 1949-1950, approximately 200,000 Koreans were shipped out of Chongjin (129-49, 41-46) for other points in the Soviet Union in those years.
3. If the worker's family went with him, his contract was for two years. Other contracts, which were for eight months, had the following stipulations: The laborer was furnished with 50 kilograms of rice, one suit of cotton-lined winter clothes, one pair of Japanese-type army shoes, and 1,500 won in advance, or 5,000 won in the case of a two-year contract. The ruble equivalent sum for these goods and money was to be deducted from the worker's salary for the first six months. No base pay was mentioned in the contract, but applicants were assured that they would be paid equally with Soviet workers, who were the best paid in the world. The Soviets charged 900 rubles for the 50 kilos of rice, 185 rubles

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for the clothes and 150 rubles for the shoes, when the actual Soviet price was 80 rubles for the clothes and 60 rubles for the shoes. Altogether, the Koreans had 1,400 rubles taken out of their pay in the first six months for various expenses.

4. It was impossible to pay this back in the period of the contract at an average wage of seven to ten rubles a day, since the workers also had to pay for meals. Fewer than one-tenth of them were able to pay off the debt in one contract period; consequently, the workers were forced to sign up for another one or two years.
5. The abolition of rationing was not altogether a good thing. Under a rationing system the Koreans were able at least to obtain sufficient food, but without rationing they were unable to buy enough with their meager salaries, since the food was often bought up by the more highly paid Soviets. The food that the Koreans were able to get consisted mostly of black bread, which cost seven rubles a day for two kilos, and salted fish. But often the daily wage was only seven rubles, so that the Koreans had to borrow on their salary. Because of this, they were often undernourished and subject to various diseases.
6. There were three classes of Koreans in the former Japanese possession: Koreans who were naturalized Soviet citizens, North Korean contract workers, and Koreans who had lived under the Japanese empire in Sakhalin or the Kurils. Of these groups the naturalized received the best treatment and former Japanese subjects the worst.
7. Although the Soviet regulations called for only an eight-hour day, the North Korean workers often worked on a round-the-clock schedule. There was a regulation that if a worker was fifteen minutes late to work, 2½ percent of his wage was deducted for the next six months. If a worker was unable to give a satisfactory explanation for an absence, he was put at hard labor without any pay for six months. Because of these regulations, some Korean laborers were put at hard labor for three to seven years. Only a doctor's statement could exempt a man from work, but the hospital was not completely available to the Koreans. They had to resort to local herbs to cure their own illnesses.
8. The work day was from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an hour out for lunch, during which they also had to buy black bread for the next day. Breakfast was generally black bread, water, and soup, if they had time to cook it for themselves. Their time outside of working hours was free.
9. There were about 25,000 Koreans living in Maoka (142-03, 47-03)***. Maoka and other cities in Southern Sakhalin traded paper and marine products for rice and fruit from Korea. Korean laborers in the coal mines had to work 10 hours a day and were told that the coal was going to factories in North Korea and that it was their duty to work harder.
10. When the Koreans finished their contract period and went home, they were often so hungry that they ate 16 bowls of porridge and 10 bowls of noodles when they landed at Chongjin. However, they were not allowed to tell that they had been mistreated, and instead were forced to go on lecture tours organized by the local People's Committee to help recruit other laborers for the same area.

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Comment: Presumably the Ministry of Fish Industries of the Eastern Regions, as there is no single Ministry of Fisheries.

Comment: Maoka has been renamed Kholmok.

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